

161 About two-thirds of the total area of Sinkiang is uninhabited.
311 In 1946 the number of farm households was 344,000 and the average
number of acres per farm was around 7.1. (Cressey, Land of the
[114] 500 Million, p. 105. This figure, according to other sources,
is rather high. These sources give a figure of from 0.5 to three
acres per farm.) The total amount of cultivated land was 2,455,000
acres or roughly one per cent of the total acreage of the region.
The greatest concentration of population is south of the Tianshan,
or more precisely, in the southwestern corner of the province near
the Soviet border. These are the districts of Khotan, Aksu, and
Yarkand which contain over two-thirds of the population of the
whole province. North of the Tianshan, the greatest concentra-
tion is in the Ili valley.

243 According to the figures supplied by Owen Lattimore, the
433 annual wheat crop of Sinkiang before the Communist conquest was
about 253,000 tons, about forty-four per cent of the total crop of
grain, beans, and seeds. Corn reached 331,000 tons or twenty-
eight per cent. Rice was about 71,000 tons or six per cent, and
sesame, rapeseed, and linseed accounted for 71,000 tons or six
[244] per cent. Barley, kaoliang, sorghum millet, beets, and peas
amounted to 119,000 tons or ten per cent. Millet, soybean, and
green beans totalled 71,000 tons or six per cent. Total agricultural
output was 916,000 tons. (Pivot of Asia, p. 167.)

243 Winter wheat is grown north of the Tianshan where, in spite
of the cold, the seeds are protected by the cover of snow; only
spring wheat can be grown south of the Tianshan, where lack of
snow cover exposes the seed to being frozen in the ground. Wheat
is tending to be displaced by rice in oasis fields because the fields
are highly alkaline. But the yield of rice is lower than that of
corn, because the Uighur farmers do not transplant the young rice
shoots as Chinese farmers do. Although the amount of labor
[461] expended on a unit of land is about the same in Sinkiang as in
[433] China Proper, the yield is somewhat less.

248 Cotton is the most important commercial crop in Sinkiang.
It was grown in Turfan as early as the T'ang Dynasty (618 -
907). Two varieties are raised: the native and the American.
In 1943, 100,000 acres of cotton were planted, seventy-three
per cent with native cotton and twenty-three per cent with seed
288 of the American varieties. Silk is also an ancient crop of com-
433 mercial importance. Its production reached 350,000 kg. in 1942
but fell drastically to 100,000 kg. in 1943.

592 The family group, living together under one roof, is the basic
241 producing unit in oasis agriculture. It often includes married
children, which makes it slightly larger than the average farm
family in China. While farms in the Tarim Basin average from
[423] 4.5 to six acres in size, larger than the 3.5 acres given for China
Proper, because the family in Sinkiang is larger, there is only